

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY**  
**Justice and Recovery Courtroom to Community Partnership – (\$1,500,000 grant)**

Santa Clara's project provides additional as well as expanded service components to the county's existing PALS program (Providing Assistance with Linking to Services). This program is a short-term, intensive case management program providing group counseling and community service linkages to mentally ill offenders immediately upon release from jail. One of the most significant aspects of the PALS expansion is the duration of case management services- increasing from a 60-day program to a year-long program. Approximately 120 additional clients will receive 24/7 post-release linkages to essential community support services, psychiatric treatment, therapy, rehabilitative services and other necessary support. Program staff will receive training in Motivational Interviewing and will provide culturally sensitive, multi-lingual assistance in all facets of the project.

In addition, clients receive increased access to intensive, integrated court-based treatment, health care benefit assistance, transportation and housing support, including the addition of 30 transitional housing beds. Treatment expansions include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, dual-diagnosis treatment, medication management and Health Realization training. The most essential component within the program is the Mental Health Treatment Court (MHTC) and MHTC Team comprised of a Judge, Substance Abuse Specialists, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Probation Officers, a Public Health Nurse, Mental Health Counselors, a jail liaison and representatives from the treatment providers. Through the increased resources and staff, the MHTC anticipates serving an additional 200 clients.

Funds will also provide additional resources for peer support and vocational training through ACT for Mental Health, Inc., a non-profit community-based agency. Group support sessions facilitated by Probation Officers offer clients a therapeutic social community in which to receive counseling, drop-in services, psychoeducation and reentry options. It is estimated that 300 individuals will benefit from these peer-based services.

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